

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Southern Giant Petrel with a geolocator and colour band recovered on Rottnest Island – On 6 September 2007 I found the tarsus and foot of a large seabird (Figure 1) on a firebreak at the west end of Pink Lake, Rottnest Island. At the time I was accompanied by Vee Saunders and Bert Genat (Rottnest Island Authority). The tarsus and foot were the only remains of the bird on the firebreak. The tarsus had a yellow colour band on it. Attached to the colour band was a geolocator. Both the colour band and the geolocator were in good condition. Written on one side of the geolocator was the following (Figure 1):

ins@bas.ac.uk

1266

MK4

On the other side was:

ATMEL436

24C1024W

SI27

I contacted the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme with the details of the find. They then contacted the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) via the email address. The BAS reported that the bird was a Southern Giant Petrel *Macronectes giganteus* which had been banded as a nestling on 19 April 2007 on Bird Island, South Georgia, Antarctica (54deg 1min S; 38deg 3 min W). It



Figure 1. Tarsus and foot of the banded Southern Giant Petrel found near Pink Lake, Rottnest Island and below the geolocator removed from the colour band.

was one of 27 fitted with geolocators that season and had travelled at least 10000kms in the 4 months since it had been banded. I assume that the bird had been blown ashore during a storm and the tarsus and foot taken inland by a Raven *Corvus coronoides*.

The BAS informed me that the geocator has a clock and records daylight intensity at regular intervals. It also has a salt water switch which records when the bird settles on the water. The device is capable of recording for up to 3 years. From the time of sunrise to sunset the logger can provide a rough estimate of longitude. From the total day length an estimate of latitude can be made. From these data the bird's passage can be

plotted and the length of time spent on the water can also be found.

This is the second banded Southern Giant Petrel I have recovered on Rottnest Island. The first was found on 8 July 1986 and had been banded by Brazilians at Stinker Point, Elephant Island, South Shetlands. The details can be found in Saunders (1987).

REFERENCE

SAUNDERS, DENIS. 1987. Banded Southern Giant Petrel recovered on Rottnest Island. *The Western Australian Naturalist* 17: 19.

– DENIS SAUNDERS, Weetangera, ACT